

FCC REPORTS NETWORK NEWS 6:30 DEC 1-15 PART 1

12/01/11

6:30 pm & 11:30 pm

ALABAMA IMMIGRATION

VO :15

After confusion and misgivings from some police about how to enforce Alabama's new immigration crackdown, the state is requiring special training in the law for more than 16,000 law officers -- every sworn officer in the state. Alabama's head of police training, Alan Benefield, says more than 1,000 already have been instructed on the law, and thousands more will go through classes this month. Benefield says a state commission took the unusual step of requiring four hours of training on the law for every sworn officer in the state because of its complexity and the continuing confusion over how it works.

IMMIGRANTS JAIL INVESTIGATION

VO :20

Members of Congress and New York politicians asked for on Thursday the Government to investigate a company course abuse to immigrants in detention centres that deprived the company operates throughout the country. The Ombudsman of the city of New York, Bill of Blasio, Hispanic Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez and other officials they sent a letter to the Justice Department asking for a investigation of the company The GEO Group, Inc., which handles dozens of private centres of detention in United States under contracts with the federal Government.

HISPANICS AND AIDS

LUIS MEGID. SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

PKG 2:00

The profile of HIV and AIDS patients in California has shifted significantly since the disease first made headlines 30 years ago, reflecting the success of drugs to extend patients' lives and the failures to stem the spread of the disease in diverse communities. A statewide analysis of health data completed in recognition of World AIDS Day, celebrated today, reveals the changing face of patients in the state, including an increase in older patients and rising rates of infection among blacks and Hispanics. The review by the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development also shows that hospitalization rates among HIV and AIDS patients have plummeted since 1988, reflecting the power of antiretroviral drug cocktails to keep the condition in check.

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12/02/11

UNEMPLOYMENT DROPS

LOURDES MELUZA. WASHINGTON, DC

PKG 2:00

Small businesses and startup companies have started hiring in bigger numbers, and that's helping drive the jobless rate down. The Labor Department says the country added 120,000 jobs last month. That makes five months in a row the economy has generated 100,000 or more jobs. It dropped the unemployment rate to 8.6 percent. While the decline was due

in part to more-than 300,000 people quitting their job searches, analysts are saying it could signal a positive trend.

JUSTICE DEPT. FAST & FURIOUS

VO :19

The Justice Department on Friday provided Congress with documents detailing how department officials gave inaccurate information to a U.S. senator in the controversy surrounding Operation Fast and Furious, the flawed law enforcement initiative aimed at dismantling major arms trafficking networks on the Southwest border. In a letter last February to Charles Grassley, the ranking Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee, the Justice Department said that the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms had not sanctioned the sale of assault weapons to a straw purchaser and that the agency makes every effort to intercept weapons that have been purchased illegally. In connection with Operation Fast and Furious, both statements turned out to be incorrect.

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12/03/11

USPS NEXT DAY SERVICE

VO: 24

The U.S. Postal Service on Monday will announce a cost-savings proposal that would no longer deliver first-class mail on the next day. The financially troubled agency will present to its overseers a proposal to change its national standard for first-class mail to two-to-five days from one-to-three, according to interviews with several mail industry officials who received a presentation by the agency this week. Right now, customers on average

receive mail the day after it was mailed, according the postal service. That may still happen, but a lot less frequently under the proposed rules, say the insiders who were briefed on the proposal.

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12/04/11

US POSTAL PROBLEMS

VO: 19

Facing bankruptcy, the U.S. Postal Service is pushing ahead with unprecedented cuts to first-class mail next spring that will slow delivery and, for the first time in 40 years, eliminate the chance for stamped letters to arrive the next day. The estimated \$3 billion in reductions, to be announced in broader detail on Monday, are part of a wide-ranging effort by the cash-strapped Postal Service to quickly trim costs, seeing no immediate help from Congress. The changes would provide short-term relief, but ultimately could prove counterproductive, pushing more of America's business onto the Internet. They could slow everything from check payments to Netflix's DVDs-by-mail, add costs to mail-order prescription drugs, and threaten the existence of newspapers and time-sensitive magazines delivered by postal carrier to far-flung suburban and rural communities.

GAS PRICES

VO: 18

The average price for a gallon of gasoline in the United States fell nearly 9 cents a gallon to about \$3.29 over the last two weeks due to weakening demand, an industry analyst said on Sunday. "The deep rate of

unemployment has sent demand down," Trilby Lundberg, editor of the Lundberg survey, told Reuters. "It is the work commute that creates most of our gasoline demand." According to the survey based on some 2,500 gas stations nationwide, the national average for regular gas has fallen nearly 18 cents a gallon over the past six weeks. On Oct. 21, the average price was about \$3.47 a gallon.

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12/05/11

POSTAL SERVICE CUTBACKS

LUIS MEGID - SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

PKG: 1:59

The cash-strapped U.S. Postal Service Monday moved forward with plans to end next-day delivery of letters, postcards and other First Class mail. Also, in a notice filed with its regulator, it sought approval to close more than half of its 461 processing facilities that have been critical for next-day delivery service. The agency expects to eliminate about 28,000 jobs as part of the processing facilities plan, said David Williams, USPS vice president for network operations. The Postal Service, which has been struggling to offset tumbling mail volumes and billion-dollar annual losses, first announced in September that it would study 252 processing sites for possible closure in 2012.

DEMOCRATS URGE PAYROLL TAX CUTS

VO: 21

Last night the Senate failed to pass two measures that would extend the payroll tax cut. Democrats and Republicans each offered a proposal but the vast disagreements over how to pay for the tax cut sank them both. Now the House gets its turn to try and come up with a compromise that both parties can sign on to.

IRS IDENTITY THEFT

LOURDES DEL RIO - MIAMI, FLORIDA

PGk 2:25

Without a hitch, Miami natives Ed and Kelley Brill had filed their joint income-tax returns from the same home address for 14 years. But this year, after obtaining an extension, the Miami Shores couple were shocked to learn that the Internal Revenue Service had rejected their electronically filed return. It turned out that a thief had stolen Kelley's identity, Social Security number and employer's name, then filed a falsified refund claim - beating the Brills to the punch. Now, the parents of three school-age children - who still have no idea how they were victimized - must wait six to 12 months to get their \$7,918 refund. Like hundreds of thousands of other Americans, the Brills are enduring a frustrating triple whammy: ID theft, tax fraud and IRS red tape.

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12/06/11

DEPORTATION DROPPED

JAIME GARCIA - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

PKG: 1:59

Lawyers say the U.S. government has dropped its New York deportation case against an Argentine lesbian who married a U.S. citizen, marking an improvement in the treatment of cases of same-sex couples involving a legal alien and a U.S. citizen. Lawyers for the Argentinean, Monica Alcota (Owl-COAT-uh), and her American spouse, Cristina Ojeda (Oh-HAY-duh), say the couple was supposed to be in Immigration Court Tuesday but notification arrived Monday that the case was dismissed. The couple's lawyer, Lavi Soloway, (LEH-vee SAH-luh-way) said the dismissal granted at the request of both sides marked the first time a case involving a lesbian married couple had been dismissed since the federal government relaxed its pursuit of the cases earlier this year. Gay couples in Newark, N.J., and San Francisco had also won dismissals.

BANK of AMERICA \$315 MILLION

VO: 22

Bank of America agreed to pay \$315 million to settle claims by investors that they were misled about mortgage-backed investments sold by its Merrill Lynch unit. The settlement was disclosed in court papers filed late Monday in U.S. District Court in Manhattan and requires the approval of a judge. The class action lawsuit was led by the Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi pension fund. The fund claimed that the investments were backed by poor quality mortgages written by subprime lenders Countrywide Financial Corp., First Franklin Financial, and IndyMac Bancorp, a bank that failed in 2008.

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12/07/11

6:30 pm & 11:30 pm

NOTHING TO REPORT

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12/08/11

6:30 pm & 11:30 pm

ERIC HOLDER "FAST AND FURIOUS"

LOURDES MELUZA. WASHINGTON, DC

PKG 2:14

Republican lawmakers told Attorney General Eric Holder on Thursday to fire some Justice Department subordinates over the flawed arms-trafficking investigation called Operation Fast and Furious. At a House Judiciary Committee hearing, Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner of Wisconsin said impeachment is an option if Holder does not "clean up this mess" quickly. Sensenbrenner and other Republicans hold the attorney general responsible for the operation, in which federal agents failed to track illicitly purchased weapons that were later recovered in Mexico and the U.S., many of them at crime scenes.

BREAST CANCER MEDICINE

JAIME GARCIA. LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

PKG 2:05

Combinations of drugs could impede advanced breast cancer tumors in different ways, two large studies suggest. Treatment for advanced breast cancer illnesses/breast-cancer-could improve significantly if doctors give women combinations of medications that attack tumors in different ways, two large clinical trials suggest. In one study, researchers found patients fared better when a breast cancer drug called an aromatase inhibitor was combined with another medication, Afinitor, which is used to treat kidney cancer but is not yet approved for breast cancer. In the second study, two standard medications for women with a type of breast cancer known as HER2-positive were more effective when the investigational drug pertuzumab was added to the regimen.

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12/09/11

SCOTUS ARIZONA IMMIGRATION LAW

LOURDES MELUZA. WASHINGTON, DC

PKG 1:52

The Supreme Court will meet behind closed doors on Friday to take a first look at a challenge to Arizona's strict immigration law and decide whether or not to take up the case. The law, passed in April 2010, is one of several recent attempts by various states to play a more aggressive role in immigration-related matters. The Obama administration challenged the Arizona law as soon as it passed, arguing that it interferes with existing federal law. Siding with the administration, the lower courts blocked several key provisions of the law from going into effect until the courts have a chance to make a final judgment. Arizona argues that the state had to move aggressively to pass the controversial provisions because the federal government was not doing its duty to control immigration.

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12/10/11

NOTHING TO REPORT

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12/11/11

NOTHING TO REPORT

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12/12/11

SUPREME COURT ARIZONA IMMIGRATION LAW

LOURDES MELUZA - WASHINGTON, DC

PKG: 2:19

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to decide whether an Arizona statute targeting illegal immigrants interferes with federal law, entering another high-profile dispute between the Obama administration and conservative state governments. The 2010 Arizona measure requires

police to arrest people they stop whom they suspect lack authorization to be in the U.S., and includes other provisions intended to drive illegal immigrants from the state. U.S. courts have blocked much of the Arizona law from taking effect, agreeing with the Justice Department that it undermines federal authority over immigration. The court is likely to hear the case by April and issue a decision before July, the same time frame for its review of President Barack Obama's 2010 health-care overhaul. Conservative activists and Republican officials from 26 state governments contend the health law exceeds federal authority.

NORTH CAROLINA IMMIGRATION LAW PROPOSAL

JAIME ZEA - RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

PKG: 1:56

A committee looking into immigration policies in North Carolina meets for the first time today, and already the debate is heating up. A large crowd is expected for the 1 p.m. meeting of the House Select Committee on the State's Role in Immigration. The nine-member committee, co-chaired by Rep. Frank Iler R-Brunswick, meets in Room 1228 of the Legislative Building in Raleigh. No legislative action is expected at Wednesday's meeting, and members of the public won't be allowed to speak. "This is an informational meeting," Iler said. "It's not a public hearing." Iler said sheriffs Terry Johnson of Alamance County and Sam Page of Rockingham County will speak about programs being used by law enforcement agencies to address criminal problems with illegal aliens. Johnson will speak of his county's use of the 287(g) program under which local law enforcement agencies enter into a partnership with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to enforce immigration laws in their jurisdictions and deport criminal aliens who pose a danger in the community.

BUSIEST SHIPPING/POSTAL DAY

VO: 13

FedEx facilities will be buzzing on Monday, December 12 th, as the company reaches what is projected to be the busiest day in its nearly 40 year history. Company forecasters expect FedEx will move approximately 17 million shipments - almost double its daily average volume - through its global networks on that day. "From the shipping perspective, our volume goes through the roof" says Terry Werner, Senior Manager at FedEx Office in Castleton. "We'll try not to have lines, but we still expect it to be really busy." To handle the surge, FedEx added 20,000 seasonal positions at FedEx Ground, FedEx Home Delivery and FedEx SmartPost. In Indianapolis, 1,000 seasonal positions were opened.

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12/13/11

BOB MENENDEZ PETITION

LOURDES MELUZA - WASHINGTON, DC

PKG: 2:04

US Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) today launched an online petition in support of allowing immigrant family members of U.S. citizens and residents to apply for "waivers of the three and ten year unlawful presence bars" from within the United States. A change of this nature in the US immigration policy would allow tens of thousands and potentially hundreds of thousands of people to determine whether they qualify for a waiver before leaving the U.S.-and before risking everything, including their family, by traveling abroad. For years, immigrants who qualify for a visa due to their family relationship with US citizens or residents have been blocked from applying for the visa here from US soil because they are here unlawfully. Many of these families could qualify for a 'waiver' that would allow them to process their family visa, but these individuals don't want to risk separation from their families so they never travel abroad to finish their visa application process.

TEXTING WHILE DRIVING BAN

VO: 22

Texting, emailing or using any cellphone is simply too dangerous to be allowed for drivers anywhere, federal regulators declare, recommending total bans by all states except in emergencies. Inspired by recent deadly crashes, the recommendation would apply even to hands-free devices, a much stricter rule than any current state law. By Joan Lowy.

IRS UNDELIVERED FUNDS

VO: 22

The I-R-S may be looking for you. But, for a change, it's not to hound you for money. Instead, the government agency is trying to dole out more than 150-million dollars in undelivered tax refund checks. The I-R-S says the money couldn't be delivered because of incorrect mailing addresses. The government agency says the undelivered refund checks average more than 15-hundred dollars each this year. If you're among the nearly 100-thousand people missing your refund, you can check out the I-R-S website for information on how to get your money.

OPERATION SANTA

BLANCA ROSA VILCHEZ - NEW YORK

PKG: 2:14

Crystal Skipwith knew her mom didn't have the money to buy her a coat or toys for Christmas. So when the giant bag of gifts arrived on her Washington, D.C., doorstep, the 8-year-old knew only that she had written to Santa, and Santa delivered. Letters addressed to Santa await sorting at the James A. Farley Post Office Building in Manhattan, N.Y., on Monday.

EnlargeClose

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12/14/11

6:30 pm & 11:30 pm

SECURE COMMUNITIES ARREST

JAIME GARCIA. LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

PKG 2:00

Four U.S. citizens were erroneously arrested in Southern California recently through the federal immigration enforcement program called Secure Communities, the American Civil Liberties Union said Wednesday. The arrests offer another point of tension between immigrant rights groups and Homeland Security, especially after President Barack Obama's administration said the highly criticized local-federal immigration enforcement program would only focus on illegal immigrants with serious criminal records. Secure Communities, administered by U.S Immigration and Customs Enforcement, allows fingerprint analysis to identify illegal immigrants in county jails.

MARRIAGES AT ALL-TIME LOW

VO :20

Scenes like this are becoming fewer and far between here in the U-S. The Pew Research Center says marriage in this country has hit a record low. Analysts looked at Census Bureau data from 2010 and found just barely over half of U-S adults were married. That's down five percent from 2009. The data shows both men and women are also waiting until they're

older to get hitched. On average, women are waiting until they are 26 years old and men are holding out until they are almost 29. Analysts say if the trend continues, single people will likely be in the majority in just a few years.

WORK MOMS HAPPIER THAN HOME

VO :20

U-S-A Today reports researchers at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro say moms who work tend to be happier and healthier than moms who stay at home with their kids. The researchers looked at data from more than 13-hundred mothers all over the U-S for a 10-year-period. They found that moms who worked full or part-time jobs had fewer symptoms of depression and were healthier in general than stay-at-home moms. Researchers also found that moms who worked part-time were better able to balance their work and home lives than moms who worked full-time.

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12/15/11

6:30 pm & 11:30 pm

CENSUS SHOWS 1 IN 2 PEOPLE AR POOR OR LOW-INCOME

VO: 28

Squeezed by rising living costs, a record number of Americans -- nearly 1 in 2 -- have fallen into poverty or are scraping by on earnings that classify them as low income. The latest census data depict a middle class that's

shrinking as unemployment stays high and the government's safety net frays. The new numbers follow years of stagnating wages for the middle class that have hurt millions of workers and families. "Safety net programs such as food stamps and tax credits kept poverty from rising even higher in 2010, but for many low-income families with work-related and medical expenses, they are considered too 'rich' to qualify," said Sheldon Danziger, a University of Michigan public policy professor who specializes in poverty.

HOME CARETAKER BENEFITS

JAIME GARCIA - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

PKG: 1:57

A trail of small, lighted trees line the front walk, a real Christmas tree with piles of presents sits centered in the front window, and strings of lights edge Robert Bard's Scottsdale home. "I haven't seen the house this decorated ... since I've lived here," Bard said. The World War II veteran, 93, has a house fit for a Christmas special. He couldn't have done it without his caretaker and friend, Sandi Woepse. "How could I live without her?" Bard said with a laugh. "She runs the house for me." Bard's adult children live on the other side of the country, so being able to partake in the holiday festivities means he relies a lot on the help of caretakers from Senior Helpers, an East Valley franchise that matches seniors with those who provide personal care.

UNEMPLOYMENT LOWEST 2008

VO: :22

Fewer Americans filed for their first week of unemployment benefits last week. So few in fact, that initial claims were at their lowest level since May 2008. About 366,000 people filed initial jobless claims in the week ended Dec. 10, the Labor Department said Thursday. That was a decrease of 19,000 from the prior week, and far better than the bigger influx of claims that economists were expecting. Last week marked the lowest level of initial unemployment claims since May 31, 2008, a welcome sign that hiring

may have picked up further in December. Economists often look for the weekly tally to stay below 400,000 to signal that job growth is strong enough to lower the unemployment rate, which is currently at 8.6%.

ONE IN 3 WOMEN VICTIMIZED

VO: 18

More than one in three women have experienced sexual assault, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime, according to a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention survey. The same is true for more than one in four men, according to the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey. The survey, released Wednesday, was based on telephone interviews with more than 16,500 adults in 2010. Supported by the National Institute of Justice and the Department of Defense, the survey was aimed at better describing and monitoring "the magnitude of sexual violence, stalking and intimate partner violence victimization in the United States," the CDC said. The report is the first of its kind to provide data on national and state levels, the agency said.

=====END OF PART ONE=====